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B. H. LOWENSTEIN

THE LEADING CLOTHIER S. W. COR SQUARE

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE]

four companions of Pearl even before he spoke.

"Wall, 's that all ye got 't say?"

"Ain't it enough?"

"No," said Dick Barnes, throwing one leg over the horn of his saddle. "No, it's not enough. I say, Pearl, how'd ye like 't change camps, an' come wi' us?"

"I won't do it," Dick Barnes, ye know I don't like ye an' 'f he, pointing to Virgil, "hadn't told me 'twas wrong, I'd hate ye."

"That don't make any difference said Dick, slipping from his saddle. "You're going with us all the same."

"No, she won't!" cried Virgil Keene, his face very pale, and his eyes flashing with determination, as he sprang between Dick and Pearl.

The cowboy who had regarded them all as tenderfeet, supposed they would cower beneath the thunder of his voice. This was a little surprise to him, especially as Virgil had his rifle in his hand, his thumb on the hammer. For a moment Dick was awed by the ominous look of Pearl's defender. But it was only for a moment. He glanced at the explorers; they were scarce more than boys, fresh from the States and doubtless unaccustomed to the use of firearms. There were but four of them, while they numbered five. Those dark woods, the solitude of this vast wilderness, would keep their secret. His companions he knew could be trusted. It only required a word, a motion, and there would be four corpses in the woods. Dick Barnes was villain enough to murder, and vaulting in his saddle, he sounded the cowboy battle cry: "T yer forty fives?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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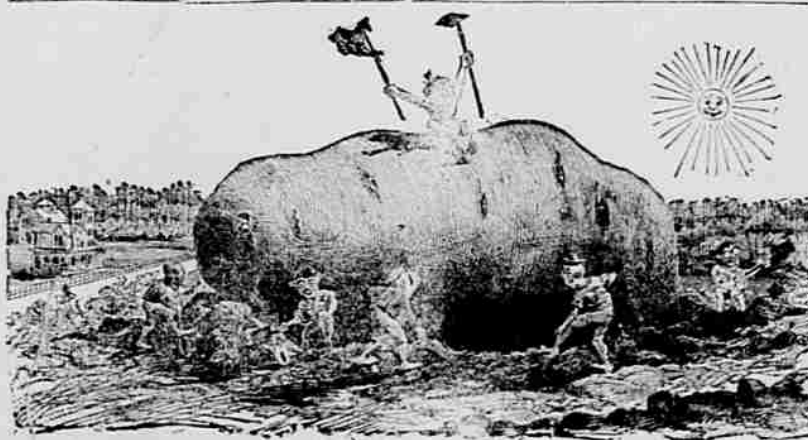
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